Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for transferring messages between a sending application program and a receiving application program across a distributed communication network, wherein the distributed communication network includes a message source coupled to a message destination, the method comprising:

segmenting a message being received at the message source from the sending application program into a plurality of message segments while assigning a common message identifier and a unique sequence number to each of the message segments, the message having a plurality of data portions;

transferring the message segments from the message source to the message destination along with the common message identifier and unique sequence numbers assigned to the message segments, ~~with~~ wherein at least one of the message segments having at least one data portion is being transferred as other data portions of the message ~~is~~ are concurrently being received at the message source;

assembling the message segments into one or more portions of a reassembled message as the message segments are received at the message destination; and

delivering ~~at least a portion~~ the one or more portions of the reassembled message to the receiving application program once the one or more portions of the reassembled message are ready to be delivered and while the assembling of other portions of the reassembled message is occurring.

2. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, further comprising during the transferring step, simultaneously transferring multiple copies of ~~the~~ each message segment~~segments~~ along with the assigned common message identifier and unique sequence number over alternate paths of the distributed communication network.

3. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising during the segmenting step, segmenting a message into the message segments wherein each message segment is no more than 0.5 mega-bytes in size.

4. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising during the segmenting step, encrypting and digitally signing each of the message segments and, during the assembling step, verifying the authenticity of each of the message segments.

5. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising during the transferring step, transferring a message from a connector message source.

6. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising during the segmenting step, segmenting a message that is greater than 1 giga-byte in size.

7. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising during the segmenting step, assigning a last segment attribute specifying whether the message segment is the last message segment from a message to each of the message segments.

8. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the transferring step includes streaming message segments to the message destination as each of the plurality of message segments becomes ready to be transferred.

9. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the delivering step includes streaming the one or more portions of the reassembled message to the receiving application program aswhile message segments are being assembled concurrently into other portions of the reassembled message.

10. (Currently Amended) A method for transferring messages between a sending application program and a receiving application program across a distributed communication network, wherein the distributed communication network includes a message source coupled to a message destination, the method comprising:

segmenting a message being received at the message source from the sending application program into a plurality of message segments while encrypting, digitally signing and assigning a common message identifier and a unique sequence number to each of the message segments, the message having a plurality of data portions;

transferring the encrypted and digitally signed message segments from the message source to the message destination along with the common message identifier and unique sequence numbers assigned to the message segments, wherein at least one of the encrypted and digitally signed

message segments having at least one data portion is being transferred as other data portions of the message are is concurrently being received at the message source;

verifying and assembling the message segments into one or more portions of a reassembled message as the message segments are received at the message destination; and

delivering at least a portion the one or more portions of the reassembled message to the receiving application once the one or more portions of the reassembled message are ready to be delivered and while the assembling of other portions of the reassembled message is occurring.

11. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 10, further comprising during the transferring step, simultaneously transferring multiple copies of the each encrypted and digitally signed message segmentsegments along with the assigned common message identifier and unique sequence numbernumbers over alternate paths of the distributed communication network.

12. (Original) The method of claim 10, further comprising during the segmenting step, assigning a last segment attribute specifying whether the message segment is the last message segment from a message to each of the message segments.

13. (New) The method of claim 1, further comprising during the segmenting step, assigning a message length attribute to each of the message segments, the message length attribute specifying the most recent total number of bytes segmented from the message.

14. (New) The method of claim 1, further comprising during the segmenting step, assigning a message error attribute to each of the message segments, the message error attribute specifying whether an error has been encountered during the segmenting step.

15. (New) The method of claim 10, further comprising during the segmenting step, assigning a message length attribute to each of the message segments, the message length attribute specifying the most recent total number of bytes segmented from the message.

16. (New) The method of claim 10, further comprising during the segmenting step, assigning a message error attribute to each of the message segments, the message error attribute specifying whether an error has been encountered during the segmenting step.